

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----013116 230754Z /21

O 221525Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6154
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MAPUTO 1016

EXDIS

LAGOS FOR YOUNG, MOOSE AND PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, MZ
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF CALLAGHAN LETTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL

REF: STATE 197393

1. SUMMARY. UK AMBASSADOR JOHN LEWEN DELIVERED PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MACHEL THIS MORNING, I ACCOMPANIED. MACHEL DID NOT EXPRESS ANY PROBLEM WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED IN THE CALLAGHAN LETTER AND ELABORATED ON BY UK AMBASSADOR. MACHEL SAID HE HAD HEARD FROM NYERERE THAT US AND UK MIGHT BE DIVIDED ON HOW TO HANDLE ZIMBABWEAN ARMED FORCES, BUT HE SEEMED REASSURED WHEN TEXT OF CALLAGHAN LETTER WAS READ TO HIM AND BY MY STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN FORMULATION OF THE PROPOSAL. JUDGING BY HIS COMMENTS, MACHEL'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN ARRANGEMENTS
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FOR MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER AND WHO CONTROLS ARMED FORCES. HE REMARKED THAT CIVIL WAR WOULD ENSUE IF "COLONIALIST," IN COOPERATION WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA, SEEK TO RETAIN ANY CONTROL OVER FUTURE ZIMBABWEAN SECURITY FORCES. MACHEL IS LIKELY TO SEEK SATISFACTION ON CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES WHEN FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG MEET WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS ON AUGUST 27TH. END SUMMARY.

2. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I HAD AN HOUR MEETING WITH MACHEL THIS MORNING. ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT WAS MACHEL'S AIDE LUIS HONWANA. LEWEN OPENED WITH PRESENTATION OF HIS TALKING POINTS. HE NOTED THAT THE UPCOMING MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD AFFORD FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE PROPOSAL AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. FOLLOWING LEWEN'S PRESENTATION I CARRIED OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS, REAFFIRMING OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH EFFORT AND EXPRESSING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN FORMULATION OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND HIS HOPE THAT MACHEL WOULD COOPERATE IN PURSUIT OF PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN ZIMBABWE.

3. AFTER LISTENING ATTENTIVELY TO LEWEN'S PRESENTATION, MACHEL OPENED DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FROM PRESIDENT NYERERE THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UK AND US AS REGARDS FUTURE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN ARMED FORCES, SPECIFICALLY THAT THE UK MIGHT NOT BE AS READY AS US TO DISBAND THE SMITH FORCES. SINCE AT THIS POINT TEXT OF CALLAGHAN'S LETTER HAD NOT BEEN READ TO HIM, HE ASKED HONWANDA TO READ HIM WHAT CALLAGHAN HAD TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT. WHEN HONWANA CAME TO POINT IN LETTER WHERE CALLAGHAN WROTE THAT "IT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO LEAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING LAW AND ORDER IN THE HANDS OF THE EXISTING RHODESIAN FORCES," MACHEL SMILED APPROVINGLY, AS HE DID AT REFERENCES

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THAT "FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE THE NEW ARMY OF ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE ONE OF ZIMBABWE'S OWN CHOOSING...(AND) THAT SUCH AN ARMY WOULD BE PREDOMINANTLY BASED ON THE FORCES OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." REFERENCES TO INTRODUCTION OF A UN FORCE ALSO SEEMED TO PLEASE MACHEL. TO HELP DISPEL NOTION THAT US AND UK MIGHT STILL BE DIVIDED ON THIS MATTER, I OBSERVED THAT US AND UK HAD BEEN CONSULTING CLOSELY THROUGHOUT FORMULATION OF PROPOSAL AND THAT THE PROPOSAL, AS WILL BE PRESENTED TO FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, HAS FULL SUPPORT OF USG AND PRESIDENT CARTER. I ALSO STRESSED THAT ONE OF REASONS FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS WAS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO DISCUSS THE VERY ISSUE OF THE FUTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES. MACHEL SEEMED TO BE REASSURED, AND TOLD HONWANA IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO READ ANY FURTHER IN THE CALLAGHAN LETTER.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MAPUTO 1016

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4. MACHEL THEN ASKED ABOUT BISHOP MUZOREWA: WHEY HAD WE BEEN TALKING TO HIM IN LONDON? WHAT WAS HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WHITE SETTLERS AND THE RHODESIAN FORCES? ALTHOUGHT MACHEL DID NOT USE PHRASE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT," THIS APPEARED TO BE WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WHEN PROBING US ABOUT MUZOREWA'S INTENTIONS, BEFORE WE LEFT SUBJECT OF MUZOREWA, MACHEL SAID THAT IF MUZOREWA SHOULD AGREE TO COOPERATED WITH THE "COLONIALIST" FORCES, THERE WOULD BE CIVIL WAR.

5. FINALLY, MACHEL ASKED IF WE COULD TELL HIM ANYTHING ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN IN LONDON. HE INQUIRED, FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN OFFERED ANY INDUCEMENTS TO COOPERATE WITH US ON ZIMBABWE. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NOT HAD THE FULL REPORT OF THE MEETINGS, BUT THAT WE WERE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT NO INDUCEMENTS HAD BEEN OFFERED. IN FACT, BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS WERE EXERTING STRONG
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PRESSURE ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO STOP SUPPORTING THE SMITH REGIME. I NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS AS MUCH IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERESTS, AS ANYONE ELSE'S, TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE.

6. COMMENT. MACHEL WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY THROUGHTOUT.

WHEREAS IN PAST, HE HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF PREVIOUS UK-US EFFORTS AT REACHING A SETTLEMENT, TODAY HE WAS NOT. IN FACT, BOTH AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I LEFT MEETING WITH IMPRESSION HE NOW REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.

7. IT CLEAR MACHEL HAD BEEN IN COMMUNICATION RECENTLY WITH NYERERE ON SUBJECT OF ANGLO-AMERICAN THINKING ON FUTURE OF RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES. IF MACHEL IS NOW REASSURED ON MATTER OF CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES, IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE NYERERE HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OF THIS SUBJECT (MACHEL KNEW ALL ABOUT NYERERE'S WEEKEND PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAR), RATHER THAN FROM LANGUAGE IN CALLAGHAN LETTER OR LAMBASSADOR LEWEN'S PRESENTATION. GIVEN MACHEL'S LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEEK TO SATISY HIMSELF FULLY ON THIS MATTER AT UPCOMING LUSAKA MEETING.
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